

# The New Jersey Department of Transportation

Governor Christine Todd Whitman • Commissioner John J. Haley Jr.

## Why high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes?

The increase in traffic and the rising cost of highway construction have led transportation experts around the country to provide alternatives. It has become impractical to continue to add lanes which turn out to give only a temporary traffic relief. **"We cannot build our way out of congestion,"** has become a national credo.

This is particularly true in New Jersey which has the most densely traveled roads in the nation.

High occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes are one of several important strategies that increase the people moving capacity of a highway by moving more people in fewer vehicles. They are open to buses, motorcycles and other vehicles with two, three or more occupants. Most HOV lanes operate only during peak morning and afternoon drive times Monday to Friday and revert to general purpose lanes at other times.

HOV lanes address traffic congestion and ensuing pollution problems and are considered a long-term solution to a long-term problem. They have the ability to move as many people as two general purpose lanes, although several locations exceed that. For example, the HOV lane on the Shirley Highway in northern Virginia and New Jersey's Lincoln Tunnel bus priority lane, one of the most successful HOV lanes in the nation, both carry more people per lane than all the remaining lanes of the highway. The Lincoln Tunnel bus lane averages 1,620 buses per hour, effectively removing 75,500 single passenger cars from the road and transporting the equivalent of 17 lanes.

Commuters benefit when HOV lanes operate. They report savings in travel time, vehicle and toll costs. HOV commuters also experience less stressful commutes.

**The future.** In New York City, the people moving component of the HOV

## New Jersey's HOV Lanes

New Jersey operates five different HOV lanes. They are:

- **I-95, Fort Lee.** In Fort Lee on I-95, one mile from the George Washington Bridge Toll Plaza, this HOV lane is one of the shortest in the country. The lane operates during the morning peak period.

- **Lincoln Tunnel Bus Priority Lane.** One of the most successful HOV lanes nationally, the Lincoln Tunnel priority bus lane averages 1,620 buses daily, effectively removing approximately 75,500 single passenger cars from the road. NJDOT also has bus lanes on Routes 22 and 9.

- **I-80.** The I-80 HOV lanes which opened in 1994 stretch from Route 15 in Rockaway Township to I-287 in Parsippany-Troy Hills. The 10.5 mile east and west-bound lanes are restricted to buses, motorcycles and vehicles that carry two or more people.

It operates 6 to 9 a.m. (eastbound) and 3 to 7 p.m. (westbound). A recent count showed 900 -1000 cars an hour carrying 2.54 people each.

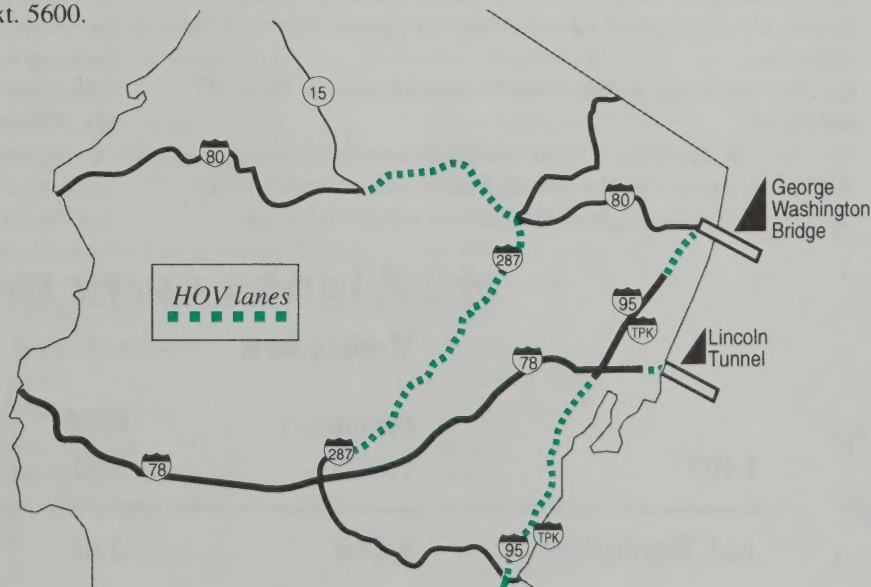
- **I-287.** The I-287 HOV lanes will be completed in late 1997; 80% operational by Fall 1997. Once completed, the I-287 northbound and southbound HOV lanes will cover a distance of 20.2 miles from Bedminster (Exit 21) to Parsippany-Troy Hills (Exit 41), making it one of the longest HOV lanes in the country.

It operates 6 to 9 a.m. (northbound) from North Maple Avenue to I-80 and 3 to 7 p.m. from South Street to I-80 only; and 6 to 9 a.m. (southbound) Exit 41 to Exit 35 and 3 to 7 p.m. Exit 35 to Exit 30 only.

- **New Jersey Turnpike.** The newest HOV lane in New Jersey opened in late 1996 northbound and southbound between Interchange 11 in Woodbridge and Interchange 14 in Newark, a distance of 13 miles.

It operates 6 to 9 a.m. northbound and 4 to 7 p.m. southbound. Unlike I-80 and I-287, the Turnpike requires three or more passengers in vehicles that use the HOV lanes.

For more information, call the NJ Turnpike Public Information Office at 908-247-0900, Ext. 5600.



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## About the I-287 HOV lanes

Interstate 287 is the bypass for the New York City metropolitan area that runs through suburban northern and central New Jersey and connects to the New York State Thruway. The interstate also connects to the New Jersey Turnpike, Garden State Parkway, Route 1, I-78 and I-80.

As a result of these connections, traffic on I-287 is drawn from the entire region with a significant portion of the commuters bound for the suburban office complexes that have developed along the corridor. Traffic congestion is evident along the interstate during the morning and evening peak hours.

In addition to regional commuters and shoppers, motorists use I-287 northbound to reach upper Manhattan or connect with the Cross Bronx Expressway to New England destinations, as well as for access to leisure and recreational destinations in Sussex and Warren counties and the Pocono Mountains in Pennsylvania. Southbound motorists use the freeway to reach the Garden State Parkway for shore destinations.

The I-287 corridor traverses Morris, Somerset and Middlesex counties. The interstate carries commuters to high density suburban employment complexes.

## Most frequently asked questions

### Q: Who may use the lane?

A: Vehicles with two or more people (three or more on the NJ Turnpike), buses and motorcycles regardless of occupancy.

### Q: Do children count as occupants?

A: Yes

### Q: Are recreational vehicles and/or trucks permitted to use the HOV lane?

A: Large commercial trucks are not permitted to use the HOV lane; however, pickup trucks, vans, recreational vehicles, or personal use trucks (such as a Chevy Blazer) are permitted to use the HOV lane as long as there are two or more occupants and the weight of the vehicle does not exceed 10,000 lbs.

### Q: Is the HOV lane operation enforced on holidays?

A: If a holiday falls on a weekday, the HOV lane operation will be enforced.

### Q: Is the HOV lane operation effective during bad weather conditions or when major accidents occur?

A: The State Police, in consultation with the Department of Transportation, will make a determination. If the HOV lane operation is suspended, signs will be posted or radio traffic reports will broadcast that the HOV lane operation has been suspended.

### Q: Do I need a special permit or decal to drive in the HOV lane?

A: No.

### Q: What will the penalty/fine be for violators?

A: Currently, a \$76 fine plus two points against your driver's license will be imposed on motorists who violate the use of the HOV lane.

### Q: Are there any public transit opportunities in the I-287 corridor?

A: Yes. At this time, NJ TRANSIT's shuttle services, WHEELS, operate in Hunterdon, Morris and Somerset Counties. For information about WHEELS, contact one of the

Transportation Management Associations listed on page 4.

### Q: It is impossible for me to carpool because of my occupation. Can an exception be made for motorists like me who cannot carpool with anyone because of the nature of my occupation?

A: At this time, the NJDOT is not making any exceptions. Although ridesharing is not for everyone, we encourage you to carpool at least one day per week. You should be aware that there are organizations such as Transportation Management Associations (TMAs) who are dedicated to providing free rideshare matching assistance throughout New Jersey. For ridesharing information, please contact one of the TMAs listed on page 4 or call 1-800-245-POOL.

### Q: I am a handicapped person unable to travel with anyone else. Can an exception be made for me to use the HOV lane?

A: Like many other states that have implemented HOV facilities, there are no exceptions made at the present time in New Jersey for handicapped individuals to utilize the HOV lane.

### Q: If I'm traveling in the lane next to the HOV lane and I wish to pass the motorist directly in front of me, can I use the HOV lane as passing lane?

A: No. If you use the HOV lane as a passing lane and do not meet the requirements for traveling in the HOV lane during the hours of HOV lane operation, you will be subject to a summons.

### Q: Will trucks be allowed to travel in the lane next to the HOV lane?

A: In sections of I-287 where there are four lanes - the inner lane being the HOV lane - trucks will be restricted to the two lanes on the right. Trucks will not be allowed to travel in the lane next to the HOV lane during hours of HOV operation.

### Q: Whom can I call to comment on HOV lanes?

A: If you wish to comment on the I-287 HOV, please call the Department's toll-free number 1-800-245-POOL and press 2. For the NJ Turnpike, please call 908-247-0900, Ext. 5600.

## HOV lanes carry more people!

	Vehicles		People Carried	
	General	HOV	General	HOV
I-80	1,690	920	1,740	2,400
NJ Turnpike	1,140	410	1,480	7,820

Average peak hour statistics per lane.



# I-287 HOV Commuter Services: Park and

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<u>County</u>	<u>Name/Location</u>	<u>Municipality</u>
Essex	Livingston Mall, County Rte. 510 & Walnut Street	Livingston Twp.
Essex	Mississippi Avenue, Harrison & Mississippi Avenue	West Orange
Essex	Orange Rd. Parking Plaza, 39 Orange Road	Montclair Twp.
Essex	South Orange Park/Ride (#9 & #3), First & Sloan Streets	South Orange Twp.
Essex	5th Street at Ropes Place	Newark
Essex	Franklin Avenue	Newark
Essex	Orange Street at Subway	Newark
Hunterdon	Clinton Township Park/Ride, I-78/Rte. 31 & Center Street (Exit 17)	Clinton Twp.
Hunterdon	Annandale Square, Beaver Avenue & Allerton Road	Annandale
Hunterdon	Hunterdon Development Center, County Rte. 513	Clinton
Morris	Smithfield Park Park/Ride, Rte. 46 & Baldwin Road (near diner)	Parsippany-Troy Hills
Morris	Parsippany-Troy Hills, Rte. 46 & Beverwyck Road	Parsippany-Troy Hills
Morris	Rockaway Boro, County Rte. 513 & Wall Street	Rockaway Boro
Morris	Rockaway Townsquare Mall, I-80 & Mount Hope Avenue	Rockaway Twp.
Morris	Dover Bus Terminal, East Blackwell Street (County Rte. 513W)	Rockaway Twp. Dover
Morris	Smithfield Park Park/Ride, Rte. 46 & Baldwin Road (west side)	Parsippany-Troy Hills
Morris	Savage Road Park/Ride Lot, Savage Road	Denville
Morris	Pequannock Municipal Building, Newark-Pompton Turnpike (Co. Rte. 660)	Pequannock
Morris	Kiwanis Ambulance, Main Street (opposite police station)	Boonton
Morris	Towaco Park/Ride, Rte. 202 & County Rte. 655 (2 lots)	Montville
Morris	Stierli Court, Howard Boulevard (Just north of I-80)	Mt. Arlington
Morris	Washington Township, Route 46 Median	Washington Twp.
Morris	Main Street & Plane Street	Boonton
Morris	Netcong, Rte. 46 & Main Street (NJT RR Station)	Netcong
Morris	Butler Bowl, 1481 Route 23 South	Butler
Morris	Mt. Olive, Sutton Plaza	Mt. Olive
Middlesex	Suburban Transit Garage, Route 27 and Van Dyke Avenue	New Brunswick
Middlesex	A&P Shopping Center, Route 27 and Henderson Road	South Brunswick
Middlesex	Kendall Park Shopping Center, Route 27 & Allston Road	South Brunswick
Middlesex	Applegarth Park/Ride, Applegarth Road	Monroe
Middlesex	East Brunswick Trans. Center, Route 18 & Tices Lane	East Brunswick
Middlesex	Rte. 9 & Ernston Road North, Route 9 & Ernston Road	Old Bridge
Middlesex	Route 9 & Jake Brown Road	Old Bridge
Middlesex	Cheesequake Service Area Garden State Parkway, Exit 125	Cheesequake
Middlesex	Garden State Parkway, Interchange 120	Old Bridge
Middlesex	Route 9 & Inverness Drive	Old Bridge
Middlesex	Carteret Exit Park/Ride, Roosevelt Avenue & Harrison Street	Carteret
Middlesex	Frederick Place K of C, Route 9 South	Old Bridge
Middlesex	Ferren Mall, Albany Street & Church Street	New Brunswick
Middlesex	Jersey Avenue Park/Ride, Route 9 & Jersey Avenue	New Brunswick
Middlesex	Jersey Avenue Annex, Jersey Avenue across from main lot	New Brunswick
Middlesex	NJ Turnpike Exit 8A, Route 130 & Route 32	South Brunswick
Somerset	Somerville Station Park/Ride, South Bridge Street	Somerville
Somerset	Veterans Memorial Drive, Urban Drive at RR Station (street parking)	Somerville
Somerset	Lyon's Rail, past Finley Avenue	Bernards
Somerset	Branchburg Park/Ride, Route 202	North Branchburg
Somerset	Stonehenge Road Park/Ride, Stonehenge Avenue & Finley Avenue	Bernards
Somerset	Cyanamid, Calco Station	Bridgewater
Sussex	Byram Park/Ride, Route 206 & Tamarack Road	Byram
Sussex	Newton Park/Ride, Route 206 & South Park Drive	Newton
Sussex	Ross's Corner, Route 206 & Route 15	Frankford Twp.
Sussex	Sussex Municipal Lot, Newton & Banks Streets	Sussex Boro
Sussex	Sparta Park/Ride, Sparta Municipal Building	Sparta
Sussex	Blue Heron Road, Route 15 & Blue Heron Interchange	Sparta
Warren	Liberty Park/Ride, Liberty & High Streets	Hackettstown
Warren	Rte. 46 (Main St.) & Sharp Street	Hackettstown
Warren	Rte. 46 & Moore Street	Hackettstown
Warren	Hope Park & Ride, I-80 and County Route 521	Woodbury

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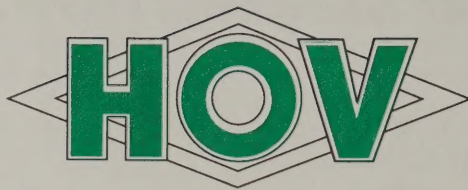
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## SERVICES FOR I-287 HOV COMMUTERS

### Transportation Management Associations (TMAs)

**Hunterdon Area Rural Transit, HART**, is a public/private partnership of business leaders, public officials and individuals committed to addressing the transportation needs of **Hunterdon County**. HART serves commuters by designing commute options to driving alone in a car and improving mobility during peak drive hours in and around Hunterdon County. Among its many commuter services, HART provides free rideshare matching assistance and a guaranteed ride home program; FAX network; monthly construction updates; transit information; and other alternative commute option programs.

**Morris County Rides, Inc., MC RIDES**, is a not-for-profit alliance of business, government and individuals organized to reduce traffic congestion, improve air quality, and provide commuter services and options to **Morris County and northwest New Jersey**. Organized in 1986, **MC RIDES** offers a wide variety of commute management services, including computerized ridematching and emergency ride home program; Park and Ride information; transit information and assistance;

carpool/vanpool promotional services; educational programs on commute options; and FAX network regarding road closings, traffic backups and construction updates.

**RIDEWISE of Raritan Valley** is the transportation management division of the Somerset Alliance for the Future, a nonprofit corporation aimed at improving the quality of life for residents and employees of **Somerset County**. Its goals are to reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality by promoting alternative commute options. **RIDEWISE** member services include free ridematching and a guaranteed ride home program; designing new commute options for area commuters; transit information and services; FAX network; a bike suitability map; and a wide variety of alternative commute programs.

For more information about commuter services, carpool and vanpool ridematching, and I-287 HOV openings, call:

HART	(908) 788-5553
MC RIDES	(201) 267-7600
RIDEWISE	(908) 704-1011

## Emergency Service Patrols

NJDOT's Emergency Service Patrols monitor the interstate from 4 a.m. to 8 p.m. weekdays. They provide emergency repairs for the safety of the driver, obtain help and open the road to

traffic as quickly as possible. This service helps thousands of grateful motorists each year.

**1-800-245-POOL**

This useful number will connect you with those who can help, free of charge, form a carpool.

## Why HOV lanes?

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lanes has recently been combined with EZPass, the electronic toll, to further speed the commute. Since 1969, more than 60 HOV lanes covering more than 1200 miles operate in the United States. This number is expected to double in the next few years. As of September 1996, there were 99 proposed major freeway/expressway HOV facilities in the United States scheduled to open before 2020.

**For your own safety...  
For construction workers' safety...**

**For everyone's sake,  
please obey 45 m.p.h.  
limit in work zones\***